W. Richard Weagly
901 CANDLELIGHT PLACE
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

ans'd 10/20

June 15, 1969

Dear Gene:

I hope this "Bon Voyage" reaches you before you depart! I have had your April 18th letter lying on the desk for weeks, fully intending to get a word off to you but things do continue to pile up so. School ended last weekend and I am free until Sept. 10th, so that I am working at the stack of mail daily, hoping to make it disappear.

I was almost tempted to make a try at getting onto your sailing, but realised it would be much too expensive to fly across the country & take a ship. I am leaving here on July 11 for London, then right to Switzerland to get a VW & head into Italy, Austria, Germany and back to Switzerland. I will be meeting Maude Taylor in Zurich(my 80-year old friend from Riverside) and she will be with me for six weeks. Anna will fly over to London on Aug. 22 for the final two weeks, as she does not get any vacation until then. We will drive in the south of England, have a week in London and then back over the Pole. So... our paths will not cross or even come near this time, but I hope for another time when we can be together. I know you will have a wonderful time seeing Judy & Hartmut again, and I wish you every happiness on your trip.

On July 7 we will have completed at least our first year of marriage successfully, and with a high degree of contentment and happiness. I never could have believed it! However, the arrangement is good for both of us, and we are certainly blessed. Anna's job continues to go swimmingly, and she had a week in NYC over May 30th weekend for a convention, endured the 90% heat, and the subways, and was glad to return to the peace & quiet of country living.

I have taken on a tiny Episcopal church next Sept. near here, with a choir of 10(!) and a 2-manual nothing. I hope I can manage it, as I have never played and conducted, but if I don't work out, I can bow out and forget it. They are a fairly new congregation and very happy to have me try.

The Riverside business seems to grow sadder, with the Forman confrontation, and the Lawson-Cotto-Lyons battle. I have word often from the ones fighting for clarification and order, and I understand Lawson is to remain for another year at least, and that the congregation has demanded & received a rather full explanation of what happened to me, and to Jesse, and to Pablo, etc. I am more than fortunate, as you say, and it would have been very difficult to have been there when Forman took over the Chancel. If Jim had been there it may well have killed him, with his heart. I have had a beautiful letter from him, in reply to my letter about Maude's death, so that our relationship seems to stay warm and alive, for which I am grateful, even tho' I have had my doubts, as you know. Some of the staff writes me that things are grim, and that the changes are very upsetting.

I envy you the Atlantic crossing, as I loved the Mary and the Elizabeth I more than any ships I ever used, but I imagine those days are over for me. Anna and I have been talking quite seriously about retiring in London, if I can last until 71, when she will be 65 and able to collect a good pension as well as Soc. Sec. By then, I may not want to live anywhere any longer, who knows!

Love to both,

Dick